

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 21-26 and 28-42 are pending and remain as presented in the response filed on June 23, 2009. Claims 21-26 and 28-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious in view of the combination of *Kataoka* (JP 09-036405), *Fujisaka* (JP 61-166182) and *Morikawa* (US 2003/0152692). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The current application is the national stage entry (i.e., 371) of PCT/JP03/13358, and thus has an effective U.S. filing date of October 20, 2003. In addition, the current application claims foreign priority to JP 2002-311938 and JP 2002-311939, both filed on October 25, 2002. As JP 2002-311938 fully supports the subject matter subject to the current rejection (i.e., claims 21-26 and 28-30), Applicants submit herewith a certified English translation of JP JP 2002-311938 in order to perfect priority to October 25, 2002. In light of this perfection of priority, the *Morikawa* reference (filed February 6, 2003) no longer qualifies as prior art against the current application. Accordingly, since the only rejection of record relies upon *Morikawa*, which does not qualify as prior art, Applicants request withdrawal of this rejection and passage of this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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